

in very eloquent and concise terms really what this debate is about, because on a fundamental level, inasmuch as we talk sometimes about these issues in abstract terms, this really is another issue, and we have discussed many of them as we have talked about the President's agenda, that affects very real people in a very real and personal way.

As we move through trying to implement an agenda which, because of these good economic times and because of the hard work of the American people, has generated more money in the Federal Treasury than is necessary to run the cost of government, the American people, I believe, and the President, asked for it when he spoke right here behind us in this Chamber, the American people want and deserve a refund.

I think that if we look at the marriage penalty, which in my State affects 75,000 couples, if we talk about the per child tax credit which we acted on last week, which affects 119,000 children in South Dakota and their parents, it is about taking the dollars that are coming in here that are more than necessary to run the cost of government, protecting and walling off Social Security, addressing the long-term needs to reform Medicare, paying down the Federal debt in historic levels, levels never before seen; certainly not seen in the last 40 years, when our colleagues on the other side ran this Chamber. I do not know when the last time is when we have had substantial paydown of the Federal debt.

But we have had an opportunity to allow the American people to keep some of this surplus which is theirs in the first place. The President has said it, it is the people's money. We need not forget that.

So whether it is the marriage penalty or the per child tax credit, the death tax, reducing marginal rates, it is important that the American people understand that they have overpaid the cost of government, very simply, very fundamentally. When that happens, just in the same way as when they go into the store to buy a pair of shoes and they hand the clerk a \$100 bill for an \$80 pair of shoes, they don't say, "Keep the change." They have overpaid the cost of the Federal government.

This is where the American people I think really need to be tuned into this debate, because it is their money we are talking about. We all know that if it stays here in Washington, it is going to get spent on more and bigger government programs.

It all comes back to the basic question, somebody talked about ideology earlier of who has the power: Does Washington, D.C. have the power, or does the American family have the power?

We happen to believe as a matter of principle that when we have an oppor-

tunity to allow the American people in this country to keep more of their hard-earned dollars, they have more power and more control over their lives to make decisions that are in the best interests of themselves, their families and their communities. That really is what this debate is all about.

Tomorrow is another chapter in that debate. We take up the death tax. Again, I hope that we can successfully piece together a tax relief package that incorporates principles that not only provide tax relief, but tax reform and tax fairness to the American people.

The interesting thing about this is that our friends on the other side, they will complain and holler, but they are coming along. They have already agreed to more tax relief than this President vetoed last year when we acted upon it.

They are now rolling out alternatives, all kinds of alternatives. They may not like exactly the way we are doing it, but they understand what the American people understand. That is that this is their money, the Americans' money, and we need to make sure they are able to keep it.

I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona joining us this evening, and the gentleman from Missouri, for their thoughtful comments and observations. I expect the gentleman will be engaged in that debate tomorrow as it gets under way as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means. We thank the gentleman for his efforts to lead the charge to eliminate not only the death tax but a lot of the other inequities in the Tax Code.

I would say to the gentleman from Missouri, again, I appreciate the chance to conduct this discussion this evening. Hopefully we will get the debate under way. The debate is joined.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal business.

Mr. LATHAM (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and April 4 on account of the death of his father.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. WOLF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DELAHUNT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BACA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KOLBE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, April 4.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and April 4.

Mr. GRUCCI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LINDER, for 5 minutes, April 4.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KELLER, for 5 minutes, April 4.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 4, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1415. A letter from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fees for Commodity and Rice Inspection Services (RIN: 0580-AA74) received March 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1416. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of Air Combat Command (ACC) is initiating a single-function cost comparison of the ACC Communications Group to include functions such as configuration and interoperability management, data-link, desktop software development, and Ground Tactical Air Control System at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1417. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Joseph W. Mobley, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of Vice Admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1418. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the